The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled).

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Canceled).

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Canceled).

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Currently amended)   A monitoring apparatus, comprising:

a message receiver at a central server having a processor to receive a first message from a computer at a first site in a casino location wherein the computer has a probe installed therein and the first site is remote from the central server, the probe being configured to:

determine, at scheduled times, a first value for a first metric, the first metric relating to operating status information associated with one or more applications running at the computer, and

generate the first message, the first message including the first value for the first metric, the first message also including an indication of the first site;

a tester at the central server configured to determine if the first value is acceptable, wherein the tester includes a [[first]] plurality of filters, each of the [[first]] plurality of filters defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric, [[and]] the tester [[is]] being operative to compare the first value with the range of acceptable values for one or more of the [[first]] plurality of filters; and

a selector configured to select, based on the first metric in the first message and the indication of the first site in the first message, a first filter from the plurality of filters, the first filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric associated with the first site; and

an alerter at the central server configured to provide an alert if the first value is not acceptable.

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Cancel).

11.   (Cancel).

12.   (Original)   A monitoring apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a log, the log including an entry corresponding to the first message.

13.   (Currently amended)   A system for monitoring software, comprising:
        a central computer;
        a monitoring apparatus installed in the central computer, wherein the monitoring apparatus includes:

        a message receiver configured to receive a first message from a first site in a casino location remote from the central computer, the first message including a first value for a first metric, the first message also including an indication of the first site,

        a tester configured to determine if the first value is acceptable, the tester including a plurality of filters, each of the plurality of filters defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric, the tester being operative to compare the first value with the range of acceptable values for one or more of the plurality of filters, and

        a selector configured to select a first filter from the plurality of filters based on the first metric in the first message and the indication of the first site in the first message, the first filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric associated with the first site, and an alerter configured to provide an alert if the first value is not acceptable;
        a first computer at the first site;
        a first probe installed in the first computer, the first probe configured to:

determine, at scheduled times, the first value for the first metric, the first metric relating to operating status information associated with one or more applications running at the first computer, and

generate the first message, the first message including the first value for the first metric; and

a network connecting the central computer and the first computer.

14.   (Previously presented)   A system according to claim 13, wherein:

the system further comprises:

a second computer;

a second probe installed in the second computer; and

the network connects the central computer and the second computer.

15.   (Original)   A system according to claim 13, wherein:

the first computer includes a software package; and

the first probe monitors the software package.

16.   (Previously presented)   A system according to claim 13, wherein:

the first computer includes a database; and

the first probe is configured to retrieve information from the database.

17.   (Previously presented)   A system according to claim 13, wherein:

the first probe includes:

a first sensor to capture a first value for a first metric; and

a message generator operative to send a first message to a central site, the message including the first value.

18.   (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein the first computer includes an e-mail server to generate a message from the first probe to the monitoring apparatus.

19.   (Canceled).

20.   (Canceled).

21.   (Canceled).

22.   (Canceled).

23.   (Canceled).

24.   (Currently amended)   A method for using a monitoring apparatus, comprising:

receiving a message at a central server;

determining at the central server a first value for a first metric for a computer at a first site in a casino location from the message, the first site being remote from the central server and the message being generated by a probe installed on the computer, the probe being configured to:

determine, at scheduled times, information related to the first value for the first metric, the first metric relating to operating status information associated with one or more applications running at the computer, and

generate the first message, the first message including the information related to the first value for the first metric, the first message also including an indication of the first site;

determining at the central server if the first value for the first metric for the first site is acceptable, wherein the determining involves selecting, based on the first metric in the first message and the indication of the first site in the first message, a first filter from a plurality of filters, each of the plurality of filters defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric, the first filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric associated with the first site, and comparing the first value with the range of acceptable values for the first filter; and

if the first value for the first metric is not acceptable, displaying an alert at the central server that the first value for the first metric is not acceptable.

25.   (Original)   A method according to claim 24, further comprising, if the first value for the first metric is acceptable, logging the first value for the first metric.

26.   (Canceled).

27.   (Original)   A method according to claim 24, wherein determining if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes comparing the first value for the first metric with at least one acceptable value.

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28.   (Original)   A method according to claim 24, wherein determining if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes determining if the first value for the first metric is within a range of acceptable values.

29.   (Previously presented)   A method according to claim 24, wherein receiving a message includes:

      accessing the first value for the first metric by the probe; and

      sending the message to the monitoring apparatus by the probe.

30.   (Original)   A method according to claim 29, wherein sending the message includes:

      delivering the message to an e-mail server by the probe;

      delivering the message to the monitoring apparatus by the e-mail server.

31.   (Original)   A method according to claim 29, wherein accessing the first value includes accessing a software package by the probe.

32.   (Original)   A method according to claim 29, wherein accessing the first value includes accessing a database by the probe.

33.   (Previously presented)   A method according to claim 29, wherein the message includes the first value for the first metric and an identifier for a site of the probe.

34.   (Canceled).

35.   (Canceled).

36.   (Canceled).

37.   (Canceled).

38.   (Canceled).

39.   (Currently amended)   Computer-readable storage media containing a program to use a monitoring apparatus, the program comprising:

software at a server to receive a message;

software at the server to determine a first value for a first metric for a computer at a first site in a casino location from the message wherein the message is caused to be generated by a probe installed on the computer, the first site being remote from the server and the probe being configured to:

determine, at scheduled times, information related to the first value for the first metric, the first metric relating to operating status information associated with one or more applications running at the computer, and

generate the first message, the first message including the information related to the first value for the first metric, the first message also including an indication of the first site;

software at the server to determine if the first value for the first metric for the first site is acceptable, wherein the determining involves selecting, based on the first metric in the first message and the indication of the first site in the first message, a first filter from a plurality of filters, each of the plurality of filters defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric, the first filter defining a range of acceptable values for the first metric associated with the first site, and comparing the first value with the range of acceptable values for the first filter; and

if the first value for the first metric is not acceptable, software at the server to display an alert that the first value for the first metric is not acceptable.

40.   (Original)   Computer-readable media according to claim 39, further comprising, if the first value for the first metric is acceptable, software to log the first value for the first metric.

41.   (Canceled).

42.   (Original)   Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to determine if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes software to compare the first value for the first metric with at least one acceptable value.

43.   (Original)   Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to determine if the first value for the first metric is acceptable includes software to determine if the first value for the first metric is within a range of acceptable values.

44.	(Previously presented)	Computer-readable media according to claim 39, wherein the software to receive a message includes:

software to access the first value for the first metric by the probe; and

software to send the message to the monitoring apparatus by the probe.

45.	(Previously presented)	Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to send the message includes:

software to deliver the message to an e-mail server by the probe; and

software to deliver the message to the monitoring apparatus by the e-mail server.

46.	(Original)	Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to access the first value includes software to access a software package by the probe.

47.	(Original)	Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to access the first value includes software to access a database by the probe.

48.	(Previously presented)	Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the message includes the first value for the first metric and an identifier for a site of the probe.

49.	(New)	A monitoring apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the central server and the remote computer are controlled by different entities.

50.	(New)	A monitoring apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the operating status information includes information allowing the central server to determine whether one or more application problems or software defects exists in one or more of the applications running at the computer.